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POLYMERISATION INHIBITOR

This invention relates to compositions for inhibiting polymerisation of unsaturated monomers, particularly vinyl, α -olefin, acrylic, conjugated diene or other ethylenically unsaturated monomers, and most particularly vinyl aromatic compounds, especially styrene. This invention also relates to a method of inhibiting polymerisation of such monomers.

US 2965685 discloses use of N, N-dialkylhydroxylamines to prevent polymerisation of styrene. Various combinations of N, N-dialkylhydroxylamines with other inhibitors have been disclosed.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a polymerisation inhibitor comprising a non-hindered cyclic hydroxylamine either alone or in combination with an additional inhibitor.

The non-hindered cyclic hydroxylamine is a cyclic hydroxylamine having no alkyl or other alpha substituents adjacent the hydroxylamine group. Preferred compounds have the formula (1).

(1)

wherein X is a group selected from: $(CH_2)_m Y(CH_2)_n$ wherein m and n are each independently an integer from 0 to 5 and Y is a CH_2 , or a hetero atom eg O, S or NH and wherein one or more CH_2 is optionally substituted with one or more C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups; $-(CH_2)_r$ - $CH = CH-(CH_2)_s$ - wherein r and s are independently integers from 0 to 3, optionally substituted with one or more C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups.

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Preferred examples include: 1-hydroxypiperidine, 4-hydroxymorpholine, 1-hydroxypyrrolidine, 1-hydroxyazetidine, 1-hydroxy-2,5-dihydropyrrole, 1-hydroxyhexamethyleneimine, 1-hydroxyazocan. Partially saturated aromatic bi or tricyclic unhindered hydroxylamines may also be employed, for example, selected from: 1-hydroxy-2,3,4-trihydroquinoline, 9-hydroxycarbozole and 1-hydroxy-2,3-dihydroindole. These compounds may be optionally substituted with one or more C₁-C₅ alkyl groups.

Mixtures of compounds may be employed.

Particularly preferred compounds are selected from: 1-hydroxypiperidine, 4-hydroxymorpholine and mixtures thereof.

The inhibitor in accordance with the first aspect of this invention may be used in combination with one or more co-inhibitors eg nitrophenols such as 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) or substituted nitro phenols such as 2-sec-butyl-4,6-dinitrophenol (DNBP). Alternative co-inhibitors may be selected from free radicals (SFR's) such as 4-hydroxy TEMPO, 4-oxo TEMPO, and 4-amino TEMPO, t-alkylcatechols, t-alkylhydroquinones, benzoquinones, p-phenylene diamines and other inhibitors known to those skilled in the art.

The amount of co-inhibitor may be in the range from a trace (eg 1%) to 96%, preferably 40 to 96% by weight of the total amount of inhibitor.

Percentages and other proportions referred to in the specification are by weight unless indicated otherwise. Percentages and proportions may be selected from ranges referred to in the specification to total 100%.

According to a second aspect of the present invention a polymerisation inhibited composition comprises a monomer and an inhibitor in accordance with the first aspect of this invention.

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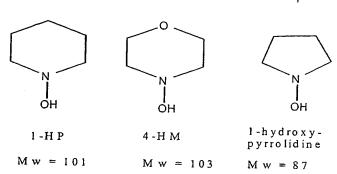
According to a third aspect of this invention a method of inhibiting polymerisation during production, purification, storage or use of a vinyl, α -olefin, acrylic, conjugated diene or other ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprises the step of addition to the monomer of a polymerisation inhibitor in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention.

Unhindered cyclic hydroxylamines in accordance with the present invention have been found to be excellent polymerisation inhibitors, particularly of vinyl aromatic compounds, especially at elevated temperatures. 1-hydroxypiperidine and 4-hydroxymorpholine have been found to be particularly effective inhibitors of styrene polymer formation, both on their own and in combination with 2-sec-butyl-4,6-dinitrophenol (DNBP). Unfavourable premature polymerisation in processing steps such as the production, purification, storage, shipment preparation and use of these monomers or in a mixture of the monomers or a hydrocarbon mixture containing such monomers. Premature polymerisation can cause contamination of the monomer and degradation of the properties of the monomer. A polymer can be deposited in the apparatus. Formation of popcom polymer is particularly undesirable. The polymerisation inhibitor in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention is effective not only for monomers and mixtures thereof but also for hydrocarbon mixtures and the like containing a small proportion of the monomers.

The invention is further described by means of examples but not in any limitative sense.

Unhindered cyclic hydroxylamines are disclosed in US 2843481 (Polaroid) and may be prepared by oxidation of the corresponding amines with aqueous hydrogen peroxide at less than 20°C.

Structures:



Results

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(a) Efficacy

Evaluation of the efficacy of hydroxylamines was carried out using a continuous stirred tank reactor (CSTR). These mimic the reboiler of a styrene distillation column. The styrene has a residence time of approximately two hours inside the reactor.

Two CSTRs were used to gather this data. For any given temperature the same CSTR was used for all experiments at that temperature.

120°C CSTR – dead volume was 170 ml. With a styrene flow rate of 75ml/hr the steady state was reached in 4.5 hrs (2 flask volumes). Data gathered after this temperature was averaged to give the steady state polymer level.

110° and 100°C CSTR – dead volume was 150 ml. With a styrene flow rate of 75 ml/hr the steady state was reached in 4 hrs. Data gathered after this point were averaged to give the steady state polymer level.

Nitrogen sparging to remove oxygen was at a measured rate of 200 ml/minute in all experiments. Aside from the inhibitors under test the only variable was the inherent variation in the rate of thermal initiation of styrene polymerisation.

Hydroxylamines were tested on their own and in combination with DNBP as shown in Table 1 (below). By way of comparison results are also presented for prior art styrene inhibitor mixtures, namely 4-Hydroxy tempo with DNBP, 4-Oxo tempo with DNBP and dihydroxypropylhydroxylamine (DHPHA) with DNBP. At a test temperature of 120°C the results shown in Table 1 were obtained (polymer results to nearest 50 ppm). Results within 10% of each other have been ranked as equal.

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Table 1 - Results at 120°C Total inhibitor is 400 ppm

Component 1	Wt %	Component 2	Wt %	Average Polymer at	Rank
				Steady State (ppm)	
1-HP	100			1850	1
DNBP	90	1-HP	10	2500	2=
DNBP	90	4-HM (100%)	10	2600	2=
DNBP	95.5	4-Oxo Tempo	4.5	2350	2=
DNBP	90	4-Hydroxy	10	3200	5=
		Tempo			
DNBP	100			3350	5=
DNBP	90	DHPHA	10	3450	5=
4-HM (100%)	100			Failed in 3.5 hours	9

Batch tests were also carried out. This was to determine the optimum ratio of DNBP and 4-HM. This was found to be about 7 parts DNBP to about 3 parts 4-HM.

A further continuous test was carried out using this ratio;

Table 1a

Component 1	Wt %	Component 2	Wt %	Average Polymer at	
				Steady State (ppm)	
DNBP	70	4-HM (100%)	30	1200	

A further test employed a mixture of 1-Hydroxypiperidine and 4-Hydroxy Tempo. This mixture showed synergy, the results are shown in Table 1b.



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Component 1	Wt %	Component 2	Wt %	Average Polymer at Steady State (ppm)
1-HP	100			1850
1-HP	90	4-HT	10	450

At 110°C the results shown in Table 2 were obtained. 4-HM technical grade (65%) showed excellent performance as a single inhibitor at this temperature and therefore the 100% active ingredient was not tested.

Table 2 - Results at 110°C Total inhibitor is 250 ppm

Component 1	Wt %	Component 2	Wt %	Average Polymer at Steady State (ppm)	Rank
1-HP	100			100	1
DNBP	90	4-HM (100%)	10	250	2
4-HM (65%)	100			700	3=
DNBP	90	1-HP	10	1100	5
DNBP	90	4-Hydroxy	10	1600	6
		Tempo			
DNBP	90	DHPHA	10	1900	7
DNBP	95.5	4-Oxo Tempo	4.5	2400	9=
DNBP	100			2400	9=

At 100°C the results shown in Table 3 were obtained. As before, the results were given to the nearest 50 ppm of polymer and results within 10% of each other were classes as equivalent.

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Table 3 - Results at 100°C Total 100 ppm inhibitor

Component 1	Wt %	Component 2	Wt %	Average Polymer at	Rank
				Steady State (ppm)	
1-HP	100			250	1
DNBP	90	4-HM (100%)	10	450	2
DNBP	90	4-Hydroxy	10	750	3
		Tempo			
4-HM (65%)	100			1000	4
DNBP	90	DHPHA	10	1900	56
DNBP	95.5	4-Oxo Tempo	4.5	2150	67=
DNBP	90	1-HP	10	2300	67=
DNBP	100			2750	89
DNBP	100			2400	9=

4-Hydroxymorpholine in 3 component systems

In this test N-bis-(1,4-dimethylpentyl)-p-phenylenediamine (PD) was used as a third component. The results are shown in Table 4.

15 Table 4 - Three component mixtures

Test Mixture	Polymer formed at 120°C	Polymer formed at 100°C
	(ppm)	(ppm)
DNB/PD/DHPHA	2750	250
DNBP/PD/4-HM	1350	100

4-Hydroxymorpholine is clearly a superior enhancer of the DNBP/PD system than is DHPHA under our test conditions. It was noted that at 120°C this three component system is equivalent in performance to the two component DNBP/4-HM system.

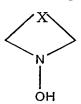
CLAIMS

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- 1. A polymerisation inhibitor comprising a non-hindered cyclic hydroxylamine either alone or in combination with an additional inhibitor.
- 2. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-hindered cyclic hydroxylamine is cyclic hydroxylamine having no alkyl or other alpha substituents adjacent the hydroxylamine group. Preferred compounds have the formula (1).



(1)

wherein X is a group selected from: $(CH_2)_m Y(CH_2)_n$ wherein m and n are each independently an integer from 0 to 5 and Y is a CH_2 , or a hetero atom eg O, S or NH and wherein one or more CH_2 is optionally substituted with one or more C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups; $-(CH_2)_r$ - $CH = CH-(CH_2)_s$ - wherein r and s are independently integers from 0 to 3, optionally substituted with one or more C_1 - C_5 alkyl groups.

- 3. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 2, wherein they hydroxylamine is selected from the group consisting of: 1-hydroxypiperidine, 4-hydroxymorpholine, 1-hydroxypyrrolidine, 1-hydroxyazetidine, 1-hydroxy-2,5-dihydropyrrole, 1-hydroxyhexamethyleneimine, 1-hydroxyazocan.
 - 4. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hydroxylamine is selected from the group consisting of partially saturated aromatic bi or tricyclic unhindered hydroxylamines and mixtures thereof.

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- 5. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hydroxylamine is selected from the group consisting of: 1-hydroxy-2,3,4-trihydroquinoline, 9-hydroxycarbozole and 1-hydroxy-2,3-dihydroindole, optionally substituted with one or more C₁ C₅ alkyl groups, and mixtures thereof.
- 6. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydroxylamine is selected from the group consisting of: 1-hydroxypiperidine, 4-hydroxymorpholine and mixtures thereof.
 - 7. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the co-inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of nitrophenols, substituted nitrophenols and stable free-radicals.
- 8. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 7, wherein the inhibitor is selected from: 2,4-dinitrophenol, 2-sec-butyl-4,6-dinitrophenyl, 4-hydroxy tempo, 4-oxo tempo, 4-amino tempo, t-alkylcatechols, t-alkylhydroxyquinones, benzoquinones, and p-phenylene diamines.
- 9. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein the amount of co-inhibitor is in the range from a trace to 96% by weight of the total amount of inhibitor.
 - 10. A polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of coinhibitor is 40 to 96% by weight of the total amount of inhibitor.
- 20 11. A polymerisation inhibited composition comprising a monomer and an inhibitor as claimed in any preceding claim.
 - 12. A method of inhibiting polymerisation during production, purification, storage or use of a vinyl α -olefin, acrylic, conjugated diene or other ethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising the step of addition to the monomer of a polymerisation inhibitor as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10.



co	ON OF SUBJECT 17C7/20 17D207/04 17D295/02	MATTER C07C239/08 C07D207/20 C07D295/22	C07C239/12 C07D209/04 C07D215/06	C07C239/16 C07D209/86 C07D211/94	C07D205/04 C07D225/02 C08K5/3435		
	According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC						

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fleids searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data, BEILSTEIN Data

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Χ	US 3 265 751 A (GEORGE MCCOY ET AL) 9 August 1966 (1966-08-09)	1-3,6, 11,12
Y	the whole document	4,5,7-10
X	US 3 265 752 A (CASE WHITON ALFRED ET AL) 9 August 1966 (1966-08-09)	1-3,6, 11,12
Υ	the whole document	4,5,7-10
X	WO 00 14175 A (A H MARKS AND COMPANY LIMITED ;BUSHBY RICHARD (GB); LORD NIGEL (GB) 16 March 2000 (2000-03-16)	1-3,6-12
Y	*abstract, page 3, lines 6-26; page 4, last paragraph; page 5, first paragraph and claims 1-5*	4,5
	-/	
- 1		

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive slep when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the International search 26 August 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 08/10/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Lorenzo Varela, M.J.



Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	XP002252353 abstract & LI, ZHANG, JIA AND HU: "Inhibition effect on radical polymerization of vinyl monomers.XXI. Studies on behavior of some substituted hydroxylamine in the copolymerization of styrene with methyl methacrylate" LANZHOU DAXUE XUEBAO, ZIRAN KEXUEBAN, vol. 34, no. 1, 1998, pages 69-75,	4-10
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	abstract & ZHANG, LI, BAI AND LU: "Inhibiting effect of radical polymerization for vinyl monomers. XI. Studies on the inhibition and their chain transfer constants of substituted hydroxylamine compounds in bulk polymerization of vinyl acetate and acrylonitrile" GAOFENZI XUEBAO, vol. 2, 1990, pages 239-243, -/	4-10



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	oracion oracomient, with indication, where appropriate, or the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE CAPLUS 'Online! CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, US; retrieved from CA Database accession no. 1991:164863	1-3,11, 12
Y	XP002252356 abstract & ZHANG, LI, WANG, LU AND FENG: "Inhibiting effects of radical polymerization of vinyl monomers. X. Studies on the inhibition and its mechanism of hydroxylamines compounds in free radical polymerization of styrene" GAOFENZI XUEBAO, vol. 2, 1990, pages 233-238,	4-10
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	abstract & BORTOLUS, DELLONTE, FAUCITANO AND GRATANI: "Photostabilizing mechanisms of hindered-amines light stabilizers: interaction with electronically excited aliphatic carbonyls" MACROMOLECULES, vol. 19, no. 12, 1986, pages 2916-2922,	
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	US 6 031 130 A (MOTOKI MASUJI ET AL) 29 February 2000 (2000-02-29)	1-4,6
	abstract; column 1, lines 1-24; column 4, lines 7-67; column 5 and example 5	5,7-12



C.(Continu	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	PC1/GB 03/02367
Category °		Relevant to claim No.
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	DATABASE CROSSFIRE BEILSTEIN 'Online! Beilstein Institut zur Förderung der Chemischen Wissenschaften, Frankfurt am Main, DE; retrieved from BEILSTEIN Database accession no. 1421020 XP002252348 abstract & MURAHASHI, MITSUI, WATANABE AND ZENKI: TETRAHEDRON LETT., vol. 24, no. 10, 1983, pages 1049-1052,	1-3
	EP 0 512 951 A (CIBA GEIGY AG) 11 November 1992 (1992-11-11) *abstract; pages 2 and 3; page 6, lines 6-56; examples 4, 6, 9-13 and the claims* -/	1-12



C.(Continua	tion) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	1 C17 GB 03/02307
Category °	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 446 220 A (ARHANCET GRACIELA B) 29 August 1995 (1995-08-29) *abstract; column 2, lines 25-68; column 3, first paragraph; the examples and the claims*	1-12
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box Observations where co	urtain plaima ween found
On the contract of the contrac	ertain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has	not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to subjections	ect matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
ļ	of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such International Search can be carried out, specifically: RMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
	claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where uni	ty of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority	found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional sear searchable daims.	ch fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all
2. As all searchable claims could of any additional fee.	be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment .
As only some of the required a covers only those claims for whether the covers only the covers	additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international Search Report hich fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
No required additional search frestricted to the invention first restricted to the invention first rest	ees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is nentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/GB 03 A2367

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims 1-11 are product claims. Therefore any cyclic hydroxylamine which fulfils the requirements disclosed in the claims/composition including them is novelty destroying for the subject-matter of the claims.

The initial phase of the search revealed a very large number of documents relevant to the issue of novelty for claims 1-4 and 6-11. So many documents were retrieved that it is impossible to determine which parts of the claims may be said to define subject-matter for which protection might legitimately be sought (Article 6 PCT). For these reasons, a meaningful search over the whole breadth of the claims is impossible. Only some of the documents found are mentioned in the search report.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.



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